

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Wednesday July 20, 2011

CONTACT:Sergeant Skip Showalter
(951) 351-6046sshowalter@riversideca.gov**DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint Planned This Friday**

Riverside, CA – Riverside Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Driver's License checkpoint on Friday, July 22, 2011, at an undisclosed location within the city limits between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. DUI checkpoints are a proven enforcement tool effective in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol involved crashes, as well as being a valuable means for heightening awareness of the dangers of impaired driving.

Officers will be checking drivers through the checkpoint for signs of alcohol and drug impairments. Officers will check for proper licensing and will strive to impact motorists only momentarily. If officers suspect that a driver has been drinking or is impaired, they will conduct a field sobriety test. If you fail, expect jail, vehicle storage fees, license suspension, insurance rate increases, along with fines, fees, DUI classes, other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

Over the course of the past three years, DUI collisions have claimed 21 lives and resulted in 201 injury crashes harming 313 of our friends and neighbors.

Statewide, overall traffic deaths declined by 23 percent, from 3,995 in 2007 to 3,081 in 2009. Total traffic fatalities are at their lowest levels in six decades, when the federal government began compiling figures. DUI deaths declined by 16 percent, from 1,132 in 2007 to 950 in 2009, according to federal statistics. Alcohol impaired deaths still make up the largest category of overall vehicle fatalities in 2009, with 31 percent of all deaths caused by a drunk or impaired driver.

"Everyone in California should be heartened with these figures," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). "But as encouraging as this is, we can't let up on the efforts to encourage and support traffic safety. You can help make your community safe; if you see a Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1."

Funding for this and other DUI checkpoints are provided to Riverside Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, targeting those who still don't heed the message to designate a sober driver.

MEDIA NOTES: To schedule an interview regarding the Riverside Traffic Safety

Operations, please contact Sergeant Skip Showalter, (951) 351-6046, or via email at sshowalter@riversideca.gov. To schedule an interview regarding impaired driving efforts and programs in California please contact Chris Cochran, California Office of Traffic Safety at (916) 905-3063 or via email at ccochran@ots.ca.gov.

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